

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 02506 210550Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

OMB-01 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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-----010654 210553Z /23

O 210505Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7725

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS COLOMBO 2506

USIA FOR IOP, INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CE

SUBJ: SRI LANKA GOES TO THE POLLS

REF: COLOMBO 2491

1. THE FIRST GENERAL ELECTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA -- BUT THE EIGHTH SINCE THE COUNTRY ATTAINED INDEPENDENCE IN 1947 -- IS BEING HELD THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND TODAY. VOTERS WILL ELECT 166 MEMBERS TODAY TO THE UNICAMERAL NATIONAL STATE ASSEMBLY (NSA) FROM 159 ELECTORATES (AN ELECTION IN ONE CONSTITUENCY RETURNING TWO MEMBERS HAS BEEN POSTPONED -- REF-TEL). REGISTERED VOTERS TOTAL 6,667,585, AN INCREASE OF 1,142,557 OVER THE NUMBER IN THE LAST ELECTION IN MAY 1970 OF THE THEN-DOMINION OF CEYLON. VOTER TURNOUT HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN HIGH -- 82.1 PERCENT IN 1965 AND A RECORD 85.2 PERCENT IN 1970.

2. THE RULING SRI LANKA FREEDOM PARTY (SLFP) IS FIELDING 147 CANDIDATES AT THE ELECTION. THE MAJOR OPPOSITION PARTY (IN UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 COLOMB 02506 210550Z

POWER FROM 1965-70) THE UNITED NATIONAL PARTY (UNP) IS PUTTING UP 153 SEATS. THE UNITED LEFT FRONT (ULF) HAS 133 CANDIDATES. THE ULF IS A COALITION OF THE TROTSKYITE LANKA SAMA SAMAJA PARTY (LSSP - 81 CANDIDATES), THE COMMUNIST PARTY (CP - 25), THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDP - 23), AND TWO SMALL PARTIES LED BY EX-INSURGENTS (2 EACH). THE TAMIL UNITED LIBERATION FRONT (TULF) IS FIELDING 23 CANDIDATES AND THE CEYLON WORKERS

CONGRESS, A TRADE UNION OF TAMILS OF INDIAN ORIGIN, TWO.
THE MAHAJCANNA EKSATH PERAMUNA HAS PUT UP 27 CANDIDATES.
THERE ARE 264 CANDIDATES WHO ARE RUNNING AS INDEPENDENTS.

3. THE PARTY COMPOSITION OF THE LAST NATIONAL STATE ASSEMBLY
WHEN IT WAS DISSOLVED MAY 18 WAS SLFP - 86, UNP - 19, LSSP
- 16, CP - 6, PDP - 4, TULF - 12, SRI LANKA VIMUKTI BALAVE-
GAYA - 2, INDEPENDENTS - 6, APPOINTED - 6. THE NEW NSA HAS
BEEN ENLARGED BY REDISTRICTING AND THE APPOINTED MEMBERS
ELIMINATED.
PERKINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Remarks:
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Subject: SRI LANKA GOES TO THE POLLS
TAGS: PINT, CE
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